

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 72

Across California, millions of people are working harder and harder to pay their bills. Worst of all is the skyrocketing cost they pay for health care.

Many companies are forcing employees to pay more for health care through higher premiums or cuts in coverage. For employees, higher insurance costs compete with their mortgage or rent, food and transportation. Many employees are going without the medical care and prescription drugs their families need, creating a health care crisis in California.

It is simply wrong when employees can't afford health insurance for themselves and their children. 72 makes sure that private health insurance remains within reach.

72 WILL LIMIT WHAT EMPLOYEES PAY FOR HEALTH CARE

- **PROBLEM:** Employees are paying more – not just because of rising health care costs, but also because businesses are shifting a greater share of the burden to their workers. *The amount California families pay for premiums has increased 70% in the last three years.* Last year, employee premiums increased at *twice* the rate of business premiums. Unless something is done, more and more will be passed onto you.

SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES

- SOLUTION: Under 72, large and medium-sized companies must pay *at least* 80% of the cost of employees' premiums for health insurance.

72 WILL PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE TO 1.1 MILLION WORKING PEOPLE
AND CHILDREN CURRENTLY UNINSURED

- PROBLEM: Some employers do not offer their employees insurance. The number of working people without insurance is increasing.

- SOLUTION: 72 requires large and mid-sized employers to pay for health insurance for employees, extending *coverage to an additional 1.1 million working people and their children.*

72 ENSURES COVERAGE YOU NEED

- PROBLEM: Already 30% of businesses say they plan to cut benefits. More will follow.
- SOLUTION: Under 72, coverage includes *prescription drugs, preventive care and major medical.*

72 PROTECTS TAXPAYERS

SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES

- PROBLEM: California taxpayers pay \$4.6 billion annually to cover emergency room and health care bills for the uninsured. Taxpayers will pay even more unless something changes.
- SOLUTION: 72 protects taxpayers by providing health care coverage to an additional 1.1 million workers and their children, taking them out of emergency rooms and *placing them in the care of their own doctors.*

72 LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD FOR RESPONSIBLE COMPANIES

**SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES**

- PROBLEM: Companies that *don't* provide affordable health care to their employees have an advantage over companies that *do*.
- SOLUTION: 72 *protects responsible companies from unfair competition* by requiring all large and mid-sized companies to pay for health care for employees.

Consumers Union, non-profit publisher of Consumer Reports, says, "After studying Proposition 72, we conclude it is a necessary step forward that protects health coverage for working Californians."

By capping employees' health care premiums, 72 will keep private health insurance within reach of working families.

**SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES**

If nothing changes, workers will continue to pay more and more for health insurance – or lose their coverage. 72 provides an answer. It's a good first step in protecting employer-based health insurance – and the 19 million Californians who depend on it. Visit www.saveyourhealthcare.com.

Richard Holober

Executive Director

Consumer Federation of California

Deborah Burger, RN

President

California Nurses Association

Richard F. Corlin, M.D.

Past President

California Medical Association & American Medical Association

**SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES**